

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

The Honorable L. E. Fountain
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Fountain:

I have your letter of October 25, 1979, on the subject of self extinguishing cigarettes.

This concept has arisen from time to time in the context of fire hazard prevention, but practical solutions have not yet turned out. Persistent suggestions have been made over the last few years by a Mr. Charles C. Cohn of Atlantic City, New Jersey, who patented a cigarette that he claims to be fire resistant (sic) and also to yield reduced amounts of undesirable smoke constituents.

The National Cancer Institute had his cigarettes tested and found substantially higher rather than reduced yields for some constituents, when compared to control cigarettes.

This is consistent with our data, which indicate that yield reduction can be accomplished through improved combustion of the cigarette, whereas Mr. Cohn's methods are designed to make the cigarette burn less efficiently.

I include copies of the salient issues in our correspondence with Mr. Cohn.

Because of our data, it is my opinion that self extinguishing cigarettes, which by definition should reduce combustibility, may actually increase the risk from the smoke itself, a public health problem of greater proportions than whatever fire hazards cigarettes may represent.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Joe B. Cori

Joe B. Cori, Ph.D
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